

Retro Advisory Committee

Meeting of August 15, 1995

Minutes

In Attendance:

John Sweitzer, *Red Lion Inns & Hotels*
Jim Nunn, *Washington Employers*
Gene Vosberg, *Restaurant Assoc of WA*
Kathy Willis, *L&I Retro Program*
Kathy Kimbel, *L&I Policy Mgmt Services*

Mike Sotelo, *W G Clark Construction*
Tom Kwieciak, *Bldg Industry Assoc of WA*
John Gentry, *Decor Carpets*
Excused:
Donna Ganders, Joe Hawkins

Guests:

Tim Gottberg
Pam Eaton
Jay Seeley
Jim Stoeser
Tania Basham

Kris Beason
Patty Myntti
Terry Peterson
Bill White
James Kozick
Roy Manicke

Betty Rehberg
JoAnne Collier
Dedi Hitchens
Theresa Whitmarsh
Julie Lakey

Introductions of those in attendance were made and Kathy Willis was introduced as the new program manager for the retrospective rating section. The minutes of the June 22, 1995 meeting were approved as distributed.

Retro Reform – Theresa Whitmarsh and Kathy Kimbel discussed the formation of the Retro Reform Subcommittee (RRS) of the WCAC¹. The subcommittee was formed in response to a retro reform proposal from AWB. House Bill 1911, which addressed retro reform during the last legislative session was also discussed. The agency hopes that the subcommittee will facilitate discussion between business and labor about the proposed retro reform changes, and plans to have the first RRS meeting in September. The role of the RRS in relation to the Retro Advisory Committee was discussed. Tom Kwieciak (*Bldg Industry Assoc of WA*) will be one of the members of the newly formed RRS.

Case Reserve – Tania Basham (*L&I Case Reserve Unit*) discussed issues and related to the case reserving process. Several comments and concerns were voiced by the group, including: whether or not employers can provide additional medical information (to justify lesser reserves); waiting for pending information to come in before reserving; and, when and why staff make phone contact to obtain information during the reserve process. Any member who has additional questions can contact Tania at (360) 902-5059, or via Internet at basa235@lni.wa.gov

Voc. Business Process Redesign (BPR) – Mike Sotelo (*W G Clark Construction*) will be participating in the BPR process taking place at L&I. He will be sharing information at future meetings.

Collections /Liens – Jim Stoeser and Julie Lakey (*L&I Revenue Officers*) were on hand to discuss liens and other collection issues. Most discussion centered around agency policies and procedures and how collection actions affect individual vs group members of Retro. Groups are interested in knowing ^{ASAP} if there is a collection problem with one of their employers. Several concerns voiced by committee members were noted; this topic will be on the agenda of the next RAC meeting to report on research into the questions raised.

“Making Claims Work” (video presentation) – Jim Kozick (*L&I Public Affairs*) presented a videotape which explains how the worker’s compensation system works. It is intended for viewing by employees. Jim solicited feedback from the group, and several suggestions were noted. Anyone who is interested in the use of the

¹WCAC: Worker’s Compensation Advisory Committee

video (or others available from the agency) may contact Jim at (360) 902-5410, or via Internet at kozi235@lni.wa.gov

Actuary's Corner – Bill White (*L&I Senior Actuary*) discussed the upcoming reduction of industrial insurance premiums for 1996. It is an average 10 percent reduction, though individual risk classes may be adjusted either up or down, depending on the industry. The effect on retro premium adjustments was a topic of much discussion, and Bill explained the implications for retro participants. Members should still receive the same percentage of the premiums refunded, though this will be affected by a smaller premium base.

Bill also talked about the 3rd party recovery process, multi-employer liability for occupational disease claims, and the \$500,000 stop loss rule. Discussion ensued which covered several areas of concern on these issues.

Retro Participants Conference - Mike Sotelo (*W G Clark Const*) reported on the planning for the retro symposium which will take place at the Governor's Industrial Safety & Health Conference this year. The symposium will begin at 1:30 p.m. October 26, in the Flag Pavilion of the Seattle Center, and will be a forum for retro members to share their successes in the program. Dr Barbara Silverstein, Theresa Whitmarsh, John Gentry, Tom Kwieciak and Mike Sotelo will be speakers during the 3½ hour event. The next retro symposium may take the form of a blockbuster session at a future safety & health conference.

L&I will do three mailings to retro members announcing the retro participants conference.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: **Tuesday, December 12, 1995, 9:00 a.m.-12 noon;**
L&I Central Office, Tumwater WA

Attachment(s)